

## A TRIBUTE TO FRED MARTELLA

**HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Fred Martella, who has been named the 1999 Agriculturist of the Year by the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce and Kings County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Martella was born in Lemoore in 1917, the second of Louis and Elvezia Martella's seven children. He attended Hanford High School before leaving to assist with the family dairy operation. Mr. Martella started milking cows for \$25 a month, and later held positions at numerous sales yards in the San Joaquin Valley.

In 1944, Mr. Martella entered into a dairy partnership, selling the dairy two years later. In 1952, he entered into another partnership with his brother, Art. Throughout his career, Mr. Martella has also been active as a professional auctioneer, and has donated his services to Valley charities on countless occasions.

During his 82 years in the Valley, Mr. Martella has been active in the farming community and the life of Kings County. He served on the Agricultural Kings Fair Board of Directors until 1986, was named Grand Marshall at this year's Kings County Homecoming Parade, and was named Citizen of the Year in 1993.

Mr. Martella is also well-known throughout the Valley as a supporter of Kings County youth. He has been a regular fixture at the Kings County Fair's Youth Auction, helping 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) participants auction off their projects at top prices, and assisting with their annual Lamb Barbecues.

Finally, Mr. Martella is a dedicated family man. He is married to Ann Martella, and has three daughters, two stepdaughters, twelve grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Fred Martella for his contributions to the agriculture field and to his community. We send our sincere congratulations for the well-deserved honor of being named Agriculturist of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO OPHELIA COLLINS  
McFADDEN**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

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*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my distinguished colleagues, Representatives HOWARD BERMAN, MAXINE WATERS, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, XAVIER BECERRA, and JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, in paying tribute today to Ophelia Collins McFadden, legendary leader of Local 434 of the Service Employees International Union in Los Angeles, California.

One of labor's most extraordinary and influential leaders, Ophelia is retiring and will be feted at a celebration in her honor in Los Angeles on October 8, 1999. We are, therefore, especially pleased to honor her today and to publicly acknowledge her more than three

decades of outstanding service to the labor movement, to the Los Angeles community, and in particular, to the thousands of working men and women throughout Los Angeles who have achieved greater economic parity because of her steadfast leadership. Indeed, it is impossible to talk about the labor movement or the advances achieved in Los Angeles during the past thirty-plus years, without invoking Ophelia's name.

The story of Ophelia Collins McFadden begins, of course, with her birth in Kendleton, Texas. She attended schools in Conroe, Texas and received her undergraduate degree from Conroe Christian Teachers College. She moved to Los Angeles in 1959 and immediately joined the civil rights movement where she quickly gained a reputation as an indefatigable soldier in the fight to remove the insidious discriminatory barriers that were prevalent throughout this great nation.

In 1968 Ophelia joined local 434 of SEIU as a staff representative. She was promoted to senior staff representative in 1974 and one year later was elevated to Assistant General Manager. On January 1, 1978, she made history in the labor movement with her appointment as General Manager of SEIU Local 434—at the time the third largest County workers union in California. She is the first African American woman Vice President of SEIU, AFL-CIO and the first African American woman to serve on the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor board. Ophelia can lay claim to numerous accomplishments during her long tenure with SEIU, not the least of which is the critical role she played in helping to establish the Los Angeles County Affirmative Action guidelines.

As an activist, Ophelia is a formidable ally to have on your team. She has been involved in every major political race in Los Angeles County for the past thirty-one years. She has worked in voter registration drives throughout the county and was among the first SEIU members to work with former California State Legislators Richard Alatorre and Art Torres in registering voters in the Latino community. She worked on the presidential campaigns of Walter Mondale and TED KENNEDY, and played a vital role in helping Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke capture her first victory for a seat on the Board of Supervisors.

She is a founding member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, as well as the Coalition of Labor Union Women; Vice President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the Western States Conference, SEIU, AFL-CIO; member of the Advisory Board of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC); and Chancellor of the Elinor Glenn Joint Council of Unions, Scholarship Trust.

In addition to her enormous responsibilities as the influential head of one of the most important labor locals in Los Angeles County, Ophelia serves as a member of the Conroe College Alumni Association, and is Vice President and a life member of the Los Angeles Branch of the NAACP. She is a member of Praises of Zion Church.

Ophelia Collins McFadden has taken her place on the front lines of every major labor initiative in the Los Angeles community. In 1986 she led the kick-off Homecare campaign and in 1989 was appointed General Manager of the Homecare Workers Union of local 434B.

Each of us paying tribute to her today can, I am sure, offer a personal anecdote of a time when she has prevailed upon us to help her in her tireless fight for the rights of county workers.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud to honor Ophelia Collins McFadden as one of the greatest labor unionists of this century. We are privileged to know her and to thank her for the many contributions she has made to the Los Angeles community, and in particular to the thousands of health care and homecare workers in our respective congressional districts. We salute and commend her and ask that you join us in extending our heartfelt best wishes to her for a long and joyous retirement.

## TAX RULES WAIVER EXTENSION

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing for myself and Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COYNE, Mrs. JOHNSON (CT), and Mr. MATSUI, legislation to extend for one additional year the temporary waiver of the minimum tax rules that deny many families the full benefit of nonrefundable personal credits, pending enactment of permanent legislation to address this inequity.

This problem is well known. The tax credits for education and children are limited by the alternative minimum tax. Consequently, more and more average Americans who use the dependent care credit, the new child credit, the HOPE credit or the lifelong learning credit, will be forced to fill out the time consuming, complex alternative minimum tax form. Even worse, a growing number of Americans will have all or part of these credits denied because they are part of the AMT base. For families with three or more children, the refundable portion of the child credit is also subject to the AMT cutback, which this bill also fixes for 1999.

The Department of the Treasury estimated that in 1998, without the "one year" waiver that was enacted last year, eight hundred thousand taxpayers who were entitled to the child credit or the education credits would have been denied the full benefit of these credits by the AMT. And although the AMT was enacted into law to ensure that wealthy individuals pay some tax, a large percentage of these new AMT taxpayers will be married couples who earn between \$45,000 and approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Speaker, we know that there is widespread agreement to fix this problem either on a permanent basis, or if that is not possible, for one additional year. The Clinton Administration, the House and Senate, and both parties agree. Yet, it has not been accomplished. We are introducing this bill, which extends last year's waiver for one additional year, to highlight the problem once again and to urge quick action to solve it for tax year 1999. Given the lead time the Internal Revenue Service needs to draft and print tax forms for next year, it is necessary for us to take action early next month. Hopefully, legislation that is acceptable to all of us will be enacted on a bipartisan basis shortly.